

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9478

UNCLAS MEXICO 0134

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR/MX/CU/XM

SUBJECT: CUBAN AMBASSADOR HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

1. CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO FERNANDO LOPEZ MUINO, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 7 TO COMMEMORATE XV ANNIVERSARY OF CUBAN REVOLUTION. THIS IS FIRST SUCH PRESS CONFERENCE LOPEZ HAS GRANTED SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN MEXICO ON JUNE 5, 1973.

2. IN HIS COMMENTS TO PRESS, AMBASSADOR LOPEZ REPORTEDLY STATED THAT TERMINATION OF ECONOMIC BLOCKADE IS A SINE QUA NON FOR RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THIS IS "ONLY CONDITION... SINCE WE ARE NOT ENGAGED IN A HOLY WAR". CONCERNING UPCOMING LATIN AMERICAN FONMINISTERS' CONFERENCE, LOPEZ EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM. HE NOTED THAT CUBAN HAD NOT BEEN INVITED AND THUS WOULD NOT ATTEND. HE DID GRANT THAT CONFERENCE "WILL BE AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL STEP, A LAST APPEAL FROM LATIN AMERICA, A NECESSARY STEP". HOWEVER, HE OPINED THAT LATIN AMERICANS ARE NOT UNIFIED AND HENCE CANNOT MEANINGFULLY CONFRONT US ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN.

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT CONDITIONS IN CUBA, AMBASSADOR IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID "WE DISREGARDED STIMULI. WE GAVE TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS AND FORGOT THAT, IN FIRST PLACE, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE PRODUCTION IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS LABOR. WE ARE CORRECTING THIS."

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4. LOPEZ' STATEMENTS INCLUDED STANDARD CONDEMNATION OF ALLENDE OUSTER AND BRAZILIAN REGIME. HE MADE KIND REMARKS CONCERNING PRESENT GOVERNMENTS IN ARGENTINA AND PERU, AND NATURALLY RESERVED HIGH PRAISE FOR HIS MEXICAN HOSTS WHO "DEFENDED RIGHT OF CUBA TO FOLLOW ITS OWN DESTINY".

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